

Policy – Internationally Educated Applicant Policy

An applicant seeking registration as an Optician in Ontario, who was educated as an Optician outside of Canada is considered an Internationally Educated Applicant.

The Applicant must provide supporting documents as follows:

1. Academic Credentials Assessment

The applicant who was educated as an Optician outside Canada must have his / her academic credentials assessed and compared to Ontario educational standards. An assessment must be obtained from a credentialing body designated or approved by the Registration Committee.

2. Verification of English or French Language Proficiency

The applicant must be able to read, speak and write either English or French with reasonable fluency, in accordance with the Language Proficiency Policy.

3. Professional Background and Experience Information

The applicant's professional experience; license to practice in his / her home country; licensing examination enabling him / her to practice in their home country; continuing education information; other pertinent information relating to registration as an Optician in Ontario will be considered.

Upon the review of the application and supporting documents, under the authority of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*(RHPA), the Panel of the Registration Committee may direct the Registrar to do any or all of the following:

a) Request the applicant undergo an assessment of his / her prior learning and experience.

An assessment test is the tool the Committee uses to verify that the applicant's current level of knowledge and skill in the practice of Opticianry is comparable to that of an applicant educated in Ontario.

If the applicant is successful at the assessment test, he / she may apply for a certificate of registration as an Intern Optician and then proceed to attempt the National Registration Examination. The successful completion of the National Registration Exam is mandatory for all internationally educated professionals who wish to practice as Opticians in Ontario.

Unsuccessful assessment test candidates will be advised by the Committee as to the additional training and upgrading he / she may obtain.

- b) Direct the applicant to attempt the National Registration Examinations. At this point, the applicant becomes eligible to apply for a certificate of registration as an Intern Optician. Upon successful completion of the registration examination, the applicant is eligible to apply for a certificate of registration as an Optician, or
- c) Refuse to issue a certificate of registration to the applicant.

The Applicant will be provided with reasons for the decision according to the requirements of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, schedule 2 to the RHPA.

The applicant must have successfully completed certification examinations that have been set or approved by the Council or examination approved as equivalent.